

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T STATE 068409

E. O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, MARR, SP (LOPEZ BRAVO, GREGORIO)

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER LOPEZ BRAVO:
BASES AGREEMENT

1. DURING APRIL 10 CALLS ON SECRETARY ROGERS AND UNDER
SECRETARY PORTER, LOPEZ BRAVO BROUGHT UP QUESTION OF RENEWAL
OF BASES AGREEMENT. GIST OF THESE CONVERSATIONS FOLLOWS:

2. ACCORDING TO LOPEZ BRAVO, MAIN WORRY FOR GOS IS TYPE OF
AGREEMENT BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND SPAIN WHICH WILL PRE-
VAIL AFTER 1975. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN SPAIN
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VASTLY CHANGED IN LAST 20 YEARS, OR EVEN LAST FIVE. WHEREAS IN 1950 S SPAIN NEEDED BOTH ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE, WHAT IT NOW REQUIRES IS POLITICAL ASSISTANCE IN FORM OF MUTUAL SECURITY GUARANTEE ALONG LINES OF NATO TREATY. ECONOMIC COUNTERPARTS ARE NOW COMPLEMENTARY, RATHER THAN BASIC TO SPANISH DEVELOPMENT NEEDS; AND GOS CAN LARGELY BUY WHAT MILITARY HARDWARE IT NEEDS ABROAD. GOS UNDERSTANDS DIFFICULTY UNITED STATES WOULD FACE WITH CONGRESS IF TREATY PRESENTED, BUT SPAIN NEVERTHELESS NEEDS INCREASED SECURITY OF SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT. MOREOVER, BY 1975 GOS WOULD HAVE HARD TIME EXPLAINING ABSENCE OF SECURITY GUARANTEE TO SPANISH PUBLIC.

3. LOPEZ BRAVO SAID GOS BELIEVES BOTH SIDES SHOULD BEGIN WELL AHEAD OF TIME THE DIFFICULT PROCESS OF DECIDING UPON FORM AND SUBSTANCE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP AFTER 1975, UPON EXPIRATION OF AGREEMENT OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION. HE SUGGESTED THAT HE VISIT WASHINGTON IN OCTOBER 1973 WHEN HE COMES TO UNITED STATES FOR UNGA. THIS VISIT WOULD GIVE BOTH SIDES ANOTHER CHANCE DISCUSS BASIC ISSUES AT HIGH LEVEL, THEN TURN TALKS OVER TO THE NEGOTIATORS. WE AGREED TO THIS TIMING, BUT DID NOT DISCUSS VENUE.

4. LOPEZ BRAVO WAS INFORMED OF PROBLEMS OF SECURITY GUARANTEE AS SEEN FROM OUR SIDE. SECRETARY ROGERS EXPLAINED THAT GENERAL MOOD IN UNITED STATES IS AGAINST TAKING ON MORE FOREIGN COMMITMENTS. THIS MOOD CURRENTLY REFLECTED IN CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES, AND WHILE MOOD COULD CHANGE BY 1975, WE DOUBT IT. THUS WHILE OUTSIDE CHANCE EXISTED THAT SENATE MIGHT RATIFY A TREATY INSTEAD OF AN EXECUTIVE AGREEMENT, SENATE WOULD NEVER APPROVE INCLUSION OF SECURITY GUARANTEE IN SUCH TREATY. AND IN OUR VIEW IT WILL BE DIFFICULT ENOUGH FOR US JUST TO EXTEND PRESENT ARRANGEMENT BY AN EXECUTIVE AGREEMENT.

5. SECRETARY ROGERS POINTED OUT THAT UNITED STATES FULLY RECOGNIZES SPANISH CONTRIBUTION TO WESTERN DEFENSE, WANTS SPAIN TO FEEL MORE CONFIDENT REGARDING ITS SECURITY AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE SPAIN BECOME MEMBER OF NATO AND IS WORKING ACTIVELY TOWARD THIS OBJECTIVE. LOPEZ BRAVO
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NOTED GOS PREFERRED BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WITH UNITED

STATES TO RELATIONSHIP WITH NATO AND ASKED IF EXCEPTION
ON SECURITY GUARANTEE ISSUE COULD NOT BE MADE IN PARTI-
CULAR CASE OF SPAIN; WHICH SO NECESSARY TO WESTERN
EUROPEAN DEFENSE. OUR VIEW OF PROSPECTS FOR SENATE
RATIFICATION AS EXPRESSED PARA 4 ABOVE WAS
REITERATED.

ROGERS

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To: LONDON
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